

REMARKS

In response to the Office Action dated June 12, 2006, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1 and 6-9.

At the outset, Applicants would like to address the statement in Section 7 of the Office Action that “the steps recited in lines 4-8 of claim 1 amount to asynchronous mode.” To the extent that this statement is intended to mean that the claims are limited to a card which operates in an asynchronous mode of communication, Applicants respectfully traverse. The Office Action states that an asynchronous communication mode “refers that one device sends a signal and a responding device returns the signal in response to original signal.” It is respectfully submitted that this definition applies to synchronous, as well as asynchronous, communications. The features recited in claim 1 are independent of the particular communication protocol that is employed. The determination whether an item of information received by the card from the terminal is erroneous, and the generation and returning of at least one item of information that is a function of this determination, does not rely upon the use of synchronous, or asynchronous, communication protocols. It is respectfully submitted that claim 1 is applicable to devices which employ either type of communication protocol.

Claims 1 and 6-9 were rejected under 35 USC 102, on the grounds that they were considered to be anticipated by Yamaguchi patent (US 5,365,047). In essence, the Office Action is taking the position that the UART 7a of the Yamaguchi patent constitutes a hard-wired communication device located between the contact P5 and the CPU 1a. It is respectfully submitted, however, that this UART does not perform the functions of the communication device recited in claim 1.

lines 1-11 are part of the programmed instructions set forth in the table bridging cols. 7-8 of that patent. Thus, the '958 patent does not solve the problem addressed by the presently claimed subject matter, namely to release the microprocessor during an exchange of information between the card and the terminal (see the specification at page 2, lines 12-16).

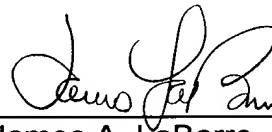
For at least these reasons, therefore, it is respectfully submitted that claim 1, and dependent claims 6-9, are not anticipated by the disclosure of the Yamaguchi patent. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection, and allowance of all pending claims, is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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